

Message Text

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FOR EA SPECIAL ASST QUINN

FOLLOWING REPEAT JAKARTA 0181 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JAN 05.
QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 0181

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PL-480 AGREEMENT

REF: A. STATE 303048; B. STATE 285667

1. ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES AFTER JAN. 4 CALL ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO, INDONESIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK TRI HARDJO DENIED THAT INDONESIA HAD ACCEPTED HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN U.S. GOOD ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE STORIES IN MOST JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS, TRI HARDJO SAID THAT A REPORT TO THIS EFFECT IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE WAS NOT TRUE AND HAD IN FACT BEEN DENIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IT IS IN THE AGREEMENT THAT FOOD AID WILL BE CHanneled TO THOSE THAT TRULY NEED IT, TRI HARDJO CONTINUED, TERMING THIS STIPULATOON COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE.

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2. ACCORDING TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE INDONESIAN TIMES, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA DENIED TO PRESS LATER SAME DAY THAT THE RELEASE OF COMMUNIST DETAINEES HAD ANY RELATION TO PL-480 FOOD AID. TIMES QUOTED MOCHTAR AS SAYING INDONESIANS HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM U.S. EMBASSY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RELEASE OF THE COMMUNIST DETAINEES

WAS INDONESIA'S REPLY TO THAT LETTER, AND GOI WAS NOW AWAITING THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY SUARA KARYA HAD MOCHTAR SAYING THAT GOI HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT LETTER REQUIRED NO REPLY SINCE INDONESIA WAS ALREADY OBSERVING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LAWS, AND THAT RELEASE OF PRISONERS HAD NO RELATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER. OTHER INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT YET CARRIED MOCHTAR'S REMARKS. ACTING CHIEF OF FONDEPT INFORMATION DIRECTORATE HATTA TELLS US THAT MOCHTAR WAS MISQUOTED BY NEWSPAPERS. MOCHTAR HAD REFERRED TO A LETTER IN REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HATTA BELIEVED WAS SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE ON TIMOR (REF B), BUT HAD NOT SAID INDONESIA WAS AWAITING U.S. RESPONSE OF DETAINEES.

3. COMMENT. THIS IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE FIRST DIRECT MENTION OF DEC. 18 SETH KING ARTICLE (REF A) IN JAKARTA PRESS. MOCHTAR'S REMARKS, WHICH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD, HAVE ADDED MORE CONFUSION THAN CLARITY TO THE SUBJECT.
RIVES UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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